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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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IN REPLY REFER TO: 7330-7/1700A3

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Trent Lott United States Senator P. O. Box 1474 Oxford, Mississippi 38655

Dear Senator Lott:

This is in reply to your letter of February 9, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, Scott D. Mahr, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the <u>Notice</u> reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u>, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the <u>Notice</u> that describes the numerous proposals.

Mr. Mahr is specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituent's concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the <u>Notice</u> are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituent to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

入の Ralph A. Haller

Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:
Notice
Order
Order
Discussion paper
cc:
Chief, PRBureau
Chief, LM&MDivison
Docket Files, Room 222
P&P Branch File (Pink)

DFertig/RShiben:/rb/lm:PR

CNTL NO - 9300581

Congressional

DUE OBC: 5-23-93

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/12/93

LETTER REPORT

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CHAIRMAN: COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2403

February 9, 1993



COMMITTEES:
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TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET

P. O. Box 1474 Oxford, MS 38655 601-234-3774

Mr. Alfred C. Sikes, Chair Federal Communications Commission Office of Congressional and Public Affairs 1919 M Street NW Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Scott D. Mahr

3312 Whippoorwill Lane

Oxford, MS 38655

Dear Al:

Please allow me this opportunity to express my interest in the above referenced constituent's concern. I am confident that you will give this matter every possible consideration and respectfully request that you keep my Oxford office apprised of developments.

With high regards, I am

TRENT LOTT

Sincerely,

U. S. Senator

TL/egh Enclosure

Scott D. Mahr

January 28, 1993

The Honorable Trent Lott United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lott,

I have been active in aviation activities for a good many years. My activities involve both full scale and model airplanes. I enjoy the challenge of building and flying model airplanes, and it is a great activity to stimulate young minds into many facets of aviation, engineering, and most important, the **imagination!**

I am writing in concern of PR Docket 92-235, which makes major changes in the allocation of radio frequencies used within the same spectrum as the frequencies we use to fly our model aircraft. As a national group of modelers, we pride ourselves in having a safe and enjoyable hobby/sport. These changes in frequency allocation would allow high-power transmitters to be used in mobile applications in the same spectrum as our radio equipment operates.

These changes would add a dimension of disaster to our sport that is currently not a problem. These high power transmitters would have the ability to knock our aircraft right out of the air, endangering property, and having the possibility of inducing serious bodily harm to the thousands of spectators and innocent bystanders of our sport. These changes would also render most of our radio equipment useless. Millions of users of this equipment would then have thousands of dollars invested in "useless" equipment.

I have written to express my great concern over the proposed changes. I would appreciate your looking into this situation and your help in avoiding this most dangerous and disruptive proposal.

Sincerely

Scott D. Mahr

3312 Whippoorwill Ln.

Oxford, MS 38655